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SOME FURNISHING SUGGESTIONS.

HERE is really so much that may be done at home in the way of practical work, by those economically disposed, that persons may only require to be advised what to do and started on a fairly straight track of how to do it, to accomplish a great deal more than they had any idea of in the beginning.

Nothing, for instance, is easier to make than chintz or cretonne curtains of moderate size, or woolen curtains just thick enough to require no lining. Curtains are now cut just sufficiently long enough to hang clear of the ground and are not looped up. If they are intended to be drawn they must be the proper width to meet easily over the window; if not, they need only be wide enough to satisfy appearances. There will generally be a curtain-rod of some ornamental description, or, if not that, a board that shall be painted to match or contrast with the woodwork of the room. Some people prefer a kind of festooning of the material of the curtains, fastened here and there with a stitch or possibly a bow or rosette; but this although very effective if tastefully done, is not to be recommended on account of the dust it gathers. A piece of fringe nailed to the edge of a flat board

some if put out of immediate sight, but where they may be readily and conveniently reached.

Drawing-rooms now have parquetted floors frequently, thus doing away with coverings other than a few rugs or mats. The parquet flooring can be laid down in any room over the regular floor boards at so much per square foot. There is a water oak stain, so called, that is said to be excellent for staining the floor, it can be mixed with water and so made light or dark as desired.

For rooms where there is little traffic, size and varnish is well enough, but a paragraph in a recent issue of a scientific paper, advises that for floors over which there is considerable travel, beeswax and turpentine mixed to the consistency of cream and applied with a flannel once every two weeks, is the best preparation for finishing the wood. The first polishing will of course require a man's strength, but thereafter the servant will be able to keep it in proper condition.

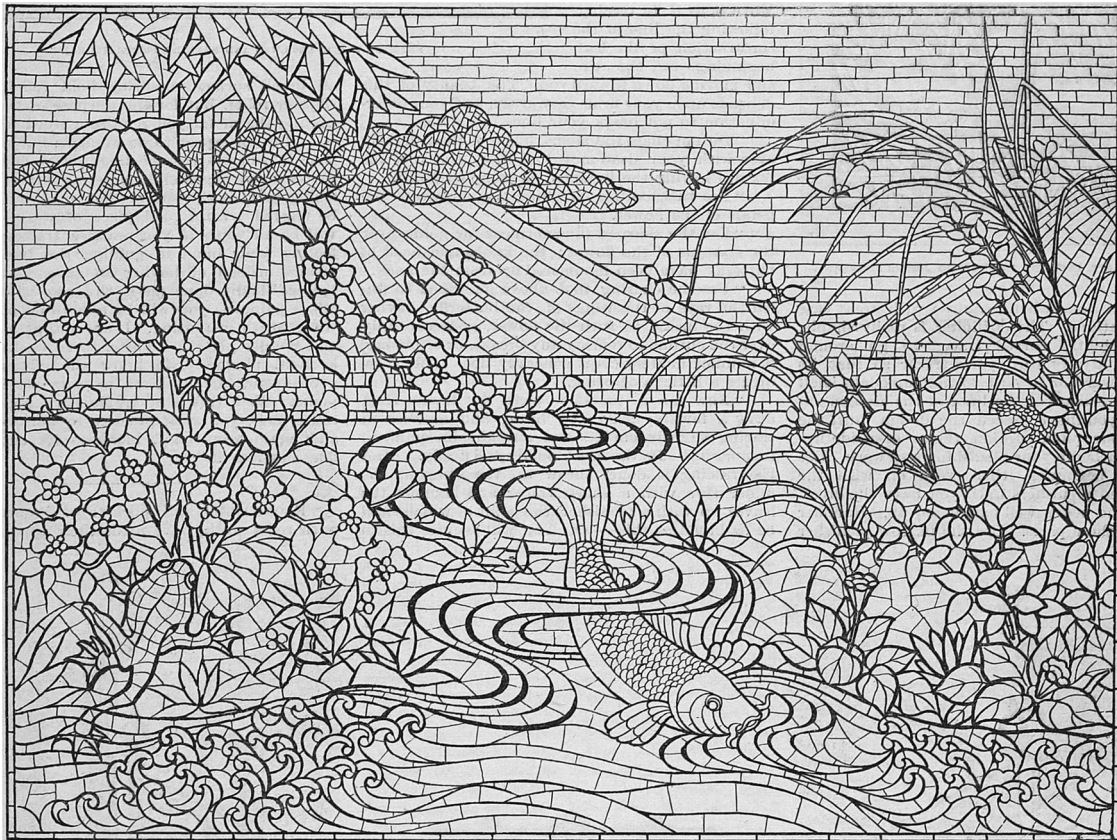
Double windows, the space between filled with flowers, add greatly to the appearance of a room; and if the bottom sash of the outer window and the upper sash of the inner are opened, the air is directed toward the ceiling, and is purified or often perfumed as it passes over the plants below. This device for ventilation is one of the most attractive

STAIR landings afford fine opportunities for the introduction of wood panels, adorned with wood carvings, or linerusta designs or panels.

HEAD and foot panels of cane-work appear on beds having cherry wood frames. Whilst contributing to lightness they also contrast well.

A LIGHT-PINKISH gray for the walls of a parlor, producing a delicate effect, may be made from zinc white, venetian red, yellow ocher, and a little raw umber.

TABLE GLASS.—All that can be expected of table glass is outline pure, simple and natural, and enrichments formed of cuttings straight or curved, more or less complicated, according to the nature of the design, or the amount of reflection required to render it complete. In glass fruit dishes its appearance is greatly enhanced by silver mountings, silver being a metal peculiarly fitted to consort with it, throwing out, as it were, a responsive luster. The designs in the metal should invariably be lightsome. We noticed some finely-rendered figures of youths disporting, serving as stems.



JAPANESE WINDOW IN STAINED GLASS WITHOUT PAINT-WORK OF ANY KIND, MADE BY THE BELCHER MOSAIC GLASS COMPANY.

to which the curtain rods are attached, and some inexpensive pottery stood upon the board, makes a desirable substitute for the festooning and for reasons of cleanliness is no doubt preferable.

It is quite easy to cover chairs and couches with cretonne or any other material that may be preferred, and in this way many remnants of stuff may be used that would otherwise be wasted. It is best to take off the old covering and cut the new pieces exactly of the same size and shape, then to stretch it over the furniture along the thread of the material, from back to front, and from side to side, taking care to keep it from being dragged. After this it is only a question of patience and tacks, which latter must be fine and sharp. Their heads, when all is complete, should be covered by a line of furniture gimp, to be bought at any upholsterers and neatly nailed on.

That very old substitute, a long, low box lined with some appropriate material and covered with cretonne or something of that description, which is durable, makes a desirable addition to the furniture of some rooms, particularly where space has to be economized, for it serves as a seat and also to contain music, newspapers, loose pamphlets, and such accompaniments as these to the disorder of every room and which are sometimes less burden-

we have yet seen. Many (perhaps most) persons seem to have an irresistible and an inexplicable desire to hang their pictures as near to the ceiling as possible. No doubt some of those that are put up as artistic features of an apartment are much more rationally treated when placed at such an elevation as to obscure the details in a measure, but when pictures are hung it is upon the presumption that they are for the gratification of those who look at them, and their rational position is therefore somewhere near the level of the eyes of the persons standing in front of them. Pictures hanging at the extreme height upon the wall, which we frequently see, is an indication not only of poor taste but generally of poor breeding.

SLIGHTLY tinted green glass is introduced by decorators in certain rooms having abundant light, as grateful to the sight and having a subduing influence on the decoration.

A HINT TO AMATEUR WOOD CARVERS.—In producing relief it is not necessary to cut away the ground of the wood to the depth of the design in relief, as a portion of the thickness necessary may be obtained by glueing on extra thicknesses of wood.

In a bed-room, the prevailing tone of which is a warm gray, lines and moldings may be appropriately colored in warm green, venetian red and white.

In painting a rural scene on a ceramic vase, with high-rounded and narrow neck, a fine effect is induced by carrying the trees up to the latter.

To impart to carving the appearance of age, boil five ounces of walnut shucks in one quart of water; filter, and apply in a cold state.

MINUTELY painted figures on a ceiling in light and sober tones really add to the apparent height of room.

IRREGULAR, incised, indented and depressed designs in compo. and in chromatic hues, outlined with complementary tints, are being extensively carried out on wall spaces of halls and vestibules.

THE tendency of decorative art is necessarily to dispense with large masses of one color in interiors.